

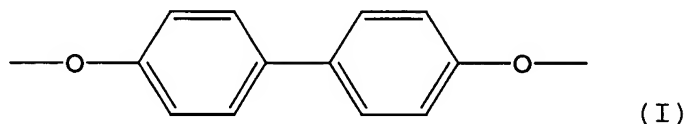
**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A process for the production of a polyester or poly(ester-amide) liquid crystalline polymer, comprising a step of increasing the molecular weight of said liquid crystalline polymer by solid state polymerizing of said liquid crystalline polymer at a temperature of about 300°C or more, wherein the liquid crystalline polymer, after said solid state polymerizing, has a melting point of about 380°C or more, wherein the improvement comprises, about 5 to about 1000 ppm of an alkali metal cation being present in said liquid crystalline polymer during said solid state polymerizing.
2. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said alkali metal cation is lithium, sodium or potassium.
3. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said alkali metal cation is potassium.
4. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein about 10 ppm to about 40 ppm of said alkali metal cation is present.
5. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said alkali metal cation is added as an alkali metal carboxylate.
6. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said alkali metal cation is added as an alkali metal 4-hydroxybenzoate.
7. The process as recited in claim 3 wherein said alkali metal cation is added as potassium 4-hydroxybenzoate.
8. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said solid state polymerizing is carried out at about 340°C or more.

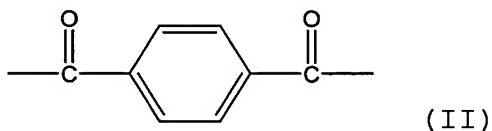
9. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said melting point is about 400°C or more.

10. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said liquid crystalline polymer has repeat units of the formula

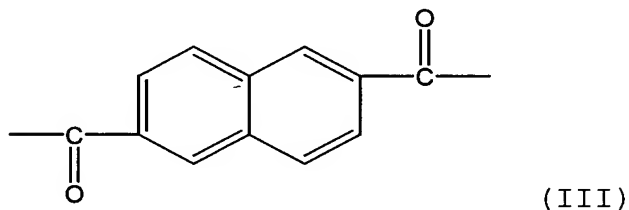
(a)



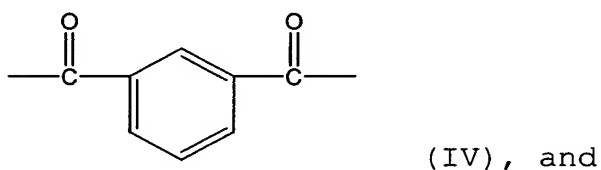
(b)



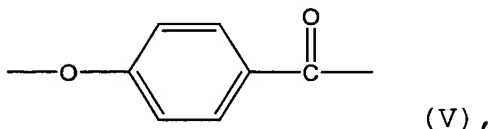
(c) one or both of



and



(d)



wherein per 100 molar parts of (I), (II) is 85-98 molar parts, (III)+(IV) is 2-15 molar parts, and (V) is 100 to 225 molar parts, provided that the molar ratio of (I)/(II)+(III) is about 0.90 to about 1.10.

11. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said liquid crystalline polymer is a polyester.

12. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said liquid crystalline polymer is an aromatic polymer.